

10 and preempts the PCI RAID adaptor 12 from writing initialization data to the disk drives 8a, b, c...n as described in the co-pending and commonly assigned patent application entitled "Method, System, and Program for Initializing a Storage Space", having U.S. Application Serial No. ~~09/832,049~~ <sup>now U.S. Patent 6,665,743,</sup> [Attorney Docket No. TUC920000093US1] and filed on April 18, 2001, which application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. However, in

15 alternative implementations, the PCI RAID adaptor 12 may perform the initialization operations described herein.

[0017] In RAID array implementations, the controller 20 would initialize the array by striping initialization data across the disks 8a, b, c...n. The controller 20 would write data to one disk for a number of sectors equal to the sector depth before switching to the next disk to write the next depth of sectors. Thus, a stripe has a length equal to the number of disks in the array and